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10/691,287

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Brian J. Cragun

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IBM CORPORATION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

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EXAMINER

HICKS, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2165

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/691,287

**Applicant(s)**

CRAGUN ET AL.

**Examiner**

Michael J. Hicks

**Art Unit**

2165

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 14-20, 22, 23 and 32-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 14-20, 22-23, 32-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: 20090604
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 9, 14-20, 22-23, and 32-38 Pending.

Claims 1-8, 10-13, 21, and 24-31 Canceled.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 9, 14-20, 22-23, and 32-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 9, 14-20, 22-23, 32-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chiueh et al. ("An Annotation System for VSLI Design", Proceedings of the Tenth Annual International Phoenix Conference on Computers and Communications, 1991, Pages 755-761, IEEE and referred to hereinafter as Chiueh).

As per Claim 9, Chiueh discloses a computer implemented method for providing an indication of an annotation to a portion of a first view of data, comprising configuring one or more computer processors to perform an operation comprising: receiving an annotation to the portion of the first view of data, wherein a view of data is any collection

of data containing a set of visible query-related sub-objects, and wherein the portion of the first view of data comprises a query-related object comprising a subset of the set of visible query-related sub-objects, wherein the subset includes at least two of the visible query-related sub-objects (i.e. Section 3.3 on Pages 757-758 clearly discloses that annotations are received to a first view of data set (e.g. a first view of a design object) which includes query related objects (e.g. layouts) wherein the query related objects contain sub-objects (e.g. components within the design layout, and selected within the view), wherein the number of sub-objects can be any number, and wherein the subset of sub-objects are visible when selected in the view.); storing the annotation to the portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the annotations are stored.); generating a relationship between the annotation and each visible query-related sub-object of the portion of the first view of data, responsive to receiving to receiving the annotation to the portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 that the entries in the data structure constitute relationships for each sub-object and the first view.); storing the relationship between the annotation and each visible query-related sub-object of the portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 that the entries in the data structure constitute relationships for each sub-object and the first view.); providing an interface, wherein a second view of data is displayed via the interface (i.e. Section 3 on Page 757 clearly discloses that an interface is present which allows the first and second view to be displayed and wherein the annotations are entered. Examiner notes that Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the objects are displayed in different views (e.g. scopes) which contain different selections of sub-objects).); analyzing, by operation of the one or more computer processors, the second view of data to identify query-related sub-objects visible in both the second view of data and the annotated portion of the first view of data, based on the

generated relationships (i.e. Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly discloses that annotations created in a first data view are applied to a second view of data (e.g. annotations made to the transistor sub-objects apply to the whole layout objects).); and providing an indication of the annotation in the interface, only if a predetermined set of the subset of visible query-related sub-objects is visible in the second view of data (i.e. Figure 3, and Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly disclose that if a sub-object is visible in a second view, any annotations made to that sub object in a first view will appear in the second view.) wherein providing an indication of the annotation in the interface comprises displaying an icon proximate one or more query-related sub-objects visible in the second view of data that are also visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data (i.e. Figure 3, and Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly disclose that if a sub-object is visible in a second view, any annotations made to that sub object in a first view will appear in the second view. Examiner notes that the indication appears as an icon proximate to the sub-object and will be displayed in both views.).

As per Claim 14, Chiueh discloses more than one annotation is associated with one or more portions of data in the second view and separate icons for each annotation are displayed (i.e. Page 758, Column 1, Paragraph 2 clearly discloses that multiple annotations exist for a particular view. Examiner notes that each annotation will include a separate icon, such as the icon shown in figure 3.).

As per Claim 15, Chiueh discloses displaying the annotation in response to a user selecting the icon (i.e. Figures 2 and 3 and Page 758, Column 1, Paragraph 2 Clearly disclose that the user must select the annotation for the annotation to be displayed.).

As per Claim 16, Chiueh discloses providing an indication of one or more query-related sub-objects visible in the second view of data that are also visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data (i.e. Examiner notes that the icon for the annotation and the presence of the sub-object in the view act as an indication that the annotation will appear in all other views including that particular sub-object.).

As per Claim 17, Chiueh discloses a computer implemented method of creating and displaying an annotation associated with an annotated portion of a first view of data, comprising configuring one or more computer processors to perform an operation comprising: providing an interface, wherein the annotated portion of the first view of data is selected via the interface, wherein the annotation is created via the interface, wherein the annotated portion comprises at least two cells visible in the first view of data and wherein a view of data is any collection of data containing a set of visible query-related sub-objects (i.e. Section 3.3 on Pages 757-758 clearly discloses that annotations are received to a first view of data set (e.g. a first view of a design object) which includes query related objects (e.g. layouts) wherein the query related objects contain sub-objects (e.g. components within the design layout, and selected within the view), wherein the number of sub-objects can be any number, and wherein the subset of sub-objects are visible when selected in the view. Examiner notes that the annotations are created via a user interface.); creating a record containing the annotation and a link to each

cell in the annotated portion (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the annotations are stored. Examiner notes that the coordinates of the sub-object constitute a link.); creating an entry in a link table for each cell in the annotated portion, wherein the entry for each cell contains an indication of the record (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the annotations are stored. Examiner notes that the coordinates of the sub-object constitute a link and that the links are stored in a data structure (e.g. table).); presenting a second view of data (i.e. Section 3 on Page 757 clearly discloses that an interface is present which allows the first and second view to be displayed and wherein the annotations are entered. Examiner notes that Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the objects are displayed in different views (e.g. scopes) which contain different selections of sub-objects).); analyzing, by operation of the one or more computer processors, the second view of data, the record, and the link table to identify cells visible in both the second view of data and the annotated portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly discloses that annotations created in a first data view are applied to a second view of data (e.g. annotations made to the transistor sub-objects apply to the whole layout objects).); and providing an indication of the annotation, only if a predetermined set of the at least two cells visible in the first view of data are visible in the second view of data (i.e. Figure 3, and Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly disclose that if a sub-object is visible in a second view, any annotations made to that sub object in a first view will appear in the second view.).

As per Claim 18, Chiueh discloses the predetermined set of cells comprises at least one of: all the cells visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data; a predetermined number of cells visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data; a

specified set of cells visible in the annotate portion of the first view of data; and a predetermined percentage of cells visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 758, Column 1, Paragraph 2 Clearly discloses that the predetermined set of cells (e.g. objects) are a predetermined number of objects selected for the scope of the annotation.).

As per Claim 19, Chiueh discloses the predetermined set of cells is specified by a user via the interface allowing selection of the annotated portion of the first view of data and creation of the annotation (i.e. Page 758, Column 1, Paragraph 2 Clearly discloses that the scope is selected through a user interface.).

As per Claim 20, Chiueh discloses providing a mechanism for identifying the predetermined set of cells, wherein the mechanism is accessible by a human user or a software application (i.e. Page 758, Column 1, Paragraph 2 Clearly discloses that the scope is recorded such that it is recognizable by the software application to display the annotations.).

As per Claim 22, Chiueh discloses the entry for each cell contains an identifier uniquely identifying the record containing the annotation (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that each object (e.g. cell) is uniquely identified in the data structure by a segment identifier.).

As per Claim 23, Chiueh discloses analyzing the second view of data to identify cells visible in both the second view of data and the annotated portion of the first view of



data comprises: querying the link table to identify one or more annotations describing views of data containing cells in the second view of data (i.e. Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly discloses that annotations created in a first data view are applied to a second view of data (e.g. annotations made to the transistor sub-objects apply to the whole layout objects). Examiner notes that these relationships are identified through the link table (e.g. data structure)); retrieving annotation records for the one or more identified annotations (i.e. Examiner notes that the annotation records are stored in the data structure as character strings.); and identifying cells visible in both the second view of data and views described by the identified annotations, based on cell links stored in the retrieved annotation records (i.e. Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly discloses that annotations created in a first data view are applied to a second view of data (e.g. annotations made to the transistor sub-objects apply to the whole layout objects). Examiner notes that these relationships are identified through the link table (e.g. data structure)).

As per Claim 32, Chiueh discloses a computer implemented method for providing an indication of an annotation to a portion of a first view of data, comprising configuring one or more computer processors to perform an operation comprising: receiving an annotation to a portion of the first view of data, wherein a view of data is any collection of data containing a set of visible query-related sub-objects, and wherein the portion of the first view of data comprises a query-related object comprising a subset of the set of visible query-related sub-objects, wherein the subset includes at least two of the visible query-related sub-objects (i.e. Section 3.3 on Pages 757-758 clearly discloses that annotations are received to a first view of data set (e.g. a first view of a design object) which includes query related objects (e.g. layouts) wherein the query related objects contain sub-objects (e.g. components within the

design layout, and selected within the view), wherein the number of sub-objects can be any number, and wherein the subset of sub-objects are visible when selected in the view.); storing a set of query-related sub-object links for the annotation to the portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the annotations are stored. Examiner notes that the coordinates of the sub-object constitute a link.); providing an interface, wherein a second view of data is displayed via the interface (i.e. Section 3 on Page 757 clearly discloses that an interface is present which allows the first and second view to be displayed and wherein the annotations are entered. Examiner notes that Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the objects are displayed in different views (e.g. scopes) which contain different selections of sub-objects).); analyzing, by operation of the one or more computer processors, the second view of data and the set of set of query-related sub-object links to identify query-related sub-objects visible in both the second view of data and the annotated portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly discloses that annotations created in a first data view are applied to a second view of data (e.g. annotations made to the transistor sub-objects apply to the whole layout objects).), comprising: obtaining the set of query-related sub-object links stored with the annotation (i.e. Figure 3, and Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly disclose that if a sub-object is visible in a second view, any annotations made to that sub object in a first view will appear in the second view.); and identifying query-related sub-objects identified by the query-related sub-object links that are visible in the second view of data (i.e. Figure 3, and Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly disclose that if a sub-object is visible in a second view, any annotations made to that sub object in a first view will appear in the second view.), and providing an indication of the annotation in the interface, only if a predetermined set of the subset of query-related sub-objects is visible in the second view of data (i.e. Figure 3, and Page 758, Column 2,

Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly disclose that if a sub-object is visible in a second view, any annotations made to that sub object in a first view will appear in the second view. Examiner notes that the indication appears as an icon proximate to the sub-object and will be displayed in both views.).

As per Claim 33, Chiueh discloses analyzing the second view of data to identify query-related sub-objects visible in both the second view of data and the annotated portion of the first view of data further comprises: obtaining, based on query-related sub-objects visible in the second view of data, an indication of the annotation from a table (i.e. Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly discloses that annotations created in a first data view are applied to a second view of data (e.g. annotations made to the transistor sub-objects apply to the whole layout objects). Examiner notes that these relationships are identified through the link table (e.g. data structure)); and wherein obtaining a set of query-related sub-object links stored with the annotation comprises retrieving a record containing the annotation and the query- related sub-object links using the indication of the annotation obtained from the table (i.e. Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly discloses that annotations created in a first data view are applied to a second view of data (e.g. annotations made to the transistor sub-objects apply to the whole layout objects). Examiner notes that these relationships are identified through the link table (e.g. data structure)).

As per Claim 34, Chiueh discloses a computer implemented method for providing an indication of an annotation to a portion of a first view of data, comprising configuring one or more computer processors to perform an operation comprising: receiving an

annotation to a portion of the first view of data, wherein a view of data is any collection of data containing a set of visible query-related sub-objects, and wherein the portion of the first view of data comprises a query-related object comprising a subset of the set of visible query-related sub-objects, wherein the subset includes at least two of the visible query-related sub-objects (i.e. Section 3.3 on Pages 757-758 clearly discloses that annotations are received to a first view of data set (e.g. a first view of a design object) which includes query related objects (e.g. layouts) wherein the query related objects contain sub-objects (e.g. components within the design layout, and selected within the view), wherein the number of sub-objects can be any number, and wherein the subset of sub-objects are visible when selected in the view.); storing the annotation to the portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the annotations are stored. Examiner notes that the coordinates of the sub-object constitute a link.); providing an interface, wherein a second view of data is displayed via the interface (i.e. Section 3 on Page 757 clearly discloses that an interface is present which allows the first and second view to be displayed and wherein the annotations are entered. Examiner notes that Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the objects are displayed in different views (e.g. scopes) which contain different selections of sub-objects).); analyzing, by operation of the one or more computer processors, the second view of data and the annotation to the portion of the first view of data to identify query-related sub-objects visible in both the second view of data and the annotated portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly discloses that annotations created in a first data view are applied to a second view of data (e.g. annotations made to the transistor sub-objects apply to the whole layout objects).); and providing an indication of the annotation in the interface, only if a predetermined set of query-related sub-objects visible in the second view of data are visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data, and only if each query-related

sub-object of the subset visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data is visible in the second view of data (i.e. Figure 3, and Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly disclose that if a sub-object is visible in a second view, any annotations made to that sub object in a first view will appear in the second view. Examiner notes that the indication appears as an icon proximate to the sub-object and will be displayed in both views.).

As per Claim 35, Chiueh discloses a computer readable storage medium containing a view annotation program which, when executed, performs an operation for providing an indication of an annotation to a portion of a first view of data, the operation comprising: receiving an annotation to the portion of the first view of data, wherein a view of data is any collection of data containing a set of visible query-related sub-objects, and wherein the portion of the first view of data comprises a query-related object comprising a subset of the set of visible query-related sub-objects, wherein the subset includes at least two of the visible query-related sub-objects (i.e. Section 3.3 on Pages 757-758 clearly discloses that annotations are received to a first view of data set (e.g. a first view of a design object) which includes query related objects (e.g. layouts) wherein the query related objects contain sub-objects (e.g. components within the design layout, and selected within the view), wherein the number of sub-objects can be any number, and wherein the subset of sub-objects are visible when selected in the view.); storing the annotation to the portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the annotations are stored. Examiner notes that the coordinates of the sub-object constitute a link.); generating a relationship between the annotation and each visible query-related sub-object of the portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 that the entries in the data structure constitute relationships

for each sub-object and the first view.); storing the relationship between the annotation and each visible query-related sub-object of the portion of the first view of data (i.e. Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the annotations are stored. Examiner notes that the coordinates of the sub-object constitute a link and that the links are stored in a data structure (e.g. table).); providing an interface, wherein a second view of data is displayed via the interface (i.e. Section 3 on Page 757 clearly discloses that an interface is present which allows the first and second view to be displayed and wherein the annotations are entered. Examiner notes that Page 760, Column 1, Paragraph 4 clearly discloses that the objects are displayed in different views (e.g. scopes) which contain different selections of sub-objects).); analyzing the second view of data to identify query-related sub-objects visible in both the second view of data and the annotated portion of the first view of data, based on the generated relationships (i.e. Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly discloses that annotations created in a first data view are applied to a second view of data (e.g. annotations made to the transistor sub-objects apply to the whole layout objects).); and providing an indication of the annotation in the interface, only if a predetermined set of the subset of the query-related sub-objects is visible in the second view of data (i.e. Figure 3, and Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly disclose that if a sub-object is visible in a second view, any annotations made to that sub object in a first view will appear in the second view.), wherein providing an indication of the annotation in the interface comprises displaying an icon proximate one or more query-related sub-objects visible in the second view of data that are also visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data (i.e. Figure 3, and Page 758, Column 2, Paragraph 3- Page 759, Column 1, Paragraph 1 clearly disclose that if a sub-object is visible in a second view, any annotations made to that sub object in a first view will appear in the second view. Examiner

notes that the indication appears as an icon proximate to the sub-object and will be displayed in both views.).

As per Claim 36, Chiueh discloses more than one annotation is associated with one or more portions of data in the second view and separate icons for each annotation are displayed (i.e. Page 758, Column 1, Paragraph 2 clearly discloses that multiple annotations exist for a particular view. Examiner notes that each annotation will include a separate icon, such as the icon shown in figure 3.).

As per Claim 37, Chiueh discloses displaying the annotation in response to a user selecting the icon (i.e. Figures 2 and 3 and Page 758, Column 1, Paragraph 2 Clearly disclose that the user must select the annotation for the annotation to be displayed.).

As per Claim 38, Chiueh discloses providing an indication of one or more query-related sub-objects visible in the second view of data that are also visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data (i.e. Examiner notes that the icon for the annotation and the presence of the sub-object in the view act as an indication that the annotation will appear in all other views including that particular sub-object.).

### ***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

***Points of Contact***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Hicks whose telephone number is (571) 272-2670. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00a - 5:30p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Neveen Abel-Jalil can be reached at (571)272-4074. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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